

Frequently Asked Questions about Z39.50 and WAIS

SIG WAIS Panel on Z39.50
Library of Congress
July 23, 1993

Background Questions

1. What is Z39.50? What is Z39.50 NOT?
2. What is a client and server? Origin and target?
What is a Z39.50 client and server? WAIS client and server?
3. How do Z39.50, TCP, OSI, and WAIS fit together?
4. How was Z39.50 developed? What are the different versions? What groups are participating in its ongoing development? Is there international participation?

Z39.50, WAIS, & Other Tools

5. What is the "WAIS protocol"? Is there such a thing? Is there a "WAIS specification"?
What is the process for developing the WAIS protocol/specification? Is there a process analogous to the Z39.50 process?
6. What is the relationship between WAIS and Z39.50? The difference?
Can WAIS be described as an application of Z39.50?
terse *verbose*
7. What is the relationship among the versions of Z39.50, with respect to the versions of WAIS?
Which Z39.50 versions are compatible with which WAIS versions? What are the long-term implications?
8. What capabilities do you gain by using WAIS instead of Z39.50? What capabilities do you lose?
9. What are the relationships among Z39.50, WAIS, WWW, Gopher?
How does Gopher use WAIS? How does Gopher use Z39.50?
10. How and when will these various tools be harmonized?
11. How do you use Z39.50 and/or WAIS to discover Z39.50 and/or WAIS servers?
Can Z39.50 be used to build a server navigation tool to discover and navigate among resources?
12. What are the Hardware/Software components that make up a WAIS/Z39.50 system?
What development tools are available? How are WAIS and Z39.50 integrated?

Z39.50 Implementation(s)

13. Who currently has implementations, production or otherwise, of Z39.50?
14. What are the various Z39.50 platforms? For origins? For targets?
15. What programming languages and other tools are used for building Z39.50 implementations?

16. When are non-bibliographic implementations likely to be available?
17. What are "self-describing" targets? Origins?
How does an origin learn the details of what a target supports?
18. Could Z39.50 be used for a CWIS system?
What enhancements are needed (and being developed) in this respect?
19. How do you build clients that access both WAIS servers and ordinary Z39.50 servers?
How do you build servers that can be accessed by WAIS clients and ordinary Z39.50 clients?

Information Retrieval

20. What are the Bib-1 and Info-1 attribute sets?
21. Are there attribute sets under development for non-bibliographic applications?
22. Indexing is not implemented in a standard manner across systems; does Z39.50 address this?
23. Does Z39.50 only retrieve MARC records? What if I have other types of records to retrieve?
24. What is a "record syntax"? "element set"?
25. How do WAIS and/or Z39.50 handle text records, and the different ways they are represented (ASCII vs. EBCDIC, newline vs. carriage return)? How does Z30.50 differ in this respect?
26. What types of data can WAIS index and retrieve? Z39.50?
How is data prepared for retrieval by WAIS? how does this differ from Z39.50?
Are there fundamentally different premises of Z39.50 and WAIS in this regard?
27. If information is searchable/retrievable by WAIS, can a Z39.50 origin also access it?

Miscellaneous

28. Can a Z39.50 origin search multiple targets during a single search?
29. How do you access a particular Z39.50 application on a remote server, via TCP?
30. Is there an RFC for Z39.50? WAIS?
31. Is WAIS being implemented internationally?
32. What is a doc-id (WAIS)? A URL? Is anyone using URLs in Z39.50 or WAIS?
33. What is Z39.58 and how does it relate to Z39.50?
34. What security measures are provided by Z39.50?
35. How does Z39.50 apply to special characters and foreign languages? Unicode?

Welcome to SIGWAIS-ii

July 23, 1993

Sponsored by USGS, the Library of Congress, and CNIDR

Schedule

- 8:30 - 9:30** Sign-in; pick up name tags and handouts: **MUMFORD ROOM, Madison Building, 6th Floor.** All sessions will be held in this location
- 9:30 - 11:30** Morning keynote sessions:
- Jane Bortnick Griffith, Library of Congress, Welcome and introductions*
 - Paul Evan Peters and Craig Summerhill, Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), "Internet Information Access and Delivery: Key Concepts, Tools, Strategies, and Issues"
 - Brewster Kahle, WAIS Inc., "WAIS Into the Future"
 - Bob Kahn, Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI) (INVITED)
- 11:30 - 1:00** LUNCH (on your own or in LC cafeteria, 6th floor, Madison Building)
- 1:00 - 4:30** Afternoon sessions:
- 1:00 - 1:20** -- Eliot Christian, USGS, Introductions and Federal Locator
- 1:25 - 1:55** -- FAQ session on Z39.50 and its relationship to WAIS and other Internet tools: Ray Denenberg, Jim Fullton, Bob Waldstein, and Les Wibberley:
- Background and basics
 - Z39.50 relationship to WAIS, gopher, and world wide web
 - How does the Z39.50 protocol work and how is it being implemented
 - Future developments
- 2:00 - 2:20** -- Carl Malamud, Internet Multicasting Service
- 2:25 - 2:45** -- Len Simutis, Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science Education
- 2:50 - 3:10** -- Wayne Allen (EINET), "Net-Surfing: Shooting the Curl"
- 3:15 - 3:35** -- Lucian Russell, Argonne National Labs, "An Intelligent WAIS Interface"
- 3:40 - 4:00** -- Dave Icove, FBI, Use of WAIS for database analysis
- 4:05 - 4:25** -- Greg Gerdy, Dow Jones, DowVision and WAIS
- 4:30** Wrap up and questions

***NOTE:** David Lytel of the OSTP will not be able to attend as previously announced.

over for demonstrations schedule

DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations will take place throughout the day adjacent to the Mumford Room and in the National Demonstration Lab, in the first floor atrium across from the main (Independence Avenue) entrance to the Library. There will be on-going, informal demonstrations between 11 am and 4 pm. In addition, the following schedule has been developed to assist you in planning your day, but feel free to stop by the demonstrations at other times to discuss the demonstration, ask questions, and meet the presenters:

11 am and 1 pm	SURANET (Ed Klein)
11:20 and 1:20 pm	NASA Access Mechanism; Support to Research and Development in an Networked Environment (Denise Duncan)
11:40 and 1:40 pm	USGS, Spatial Searching and IBM MVS WAIS client (Tim Gauslin)
12:00 and 2:00	Library of Congress, OS/2 WAIS client (Chuck Gialloreto)
11:20 and 2:20	WAIS Inc.
11:40 and 2:40	NASA Stelar Project (Archie Warnock)
12:00 and 3:00	MCC/ISD Texas, Navigation Facilities (Wayne Allen)
12:20 and 3:20	LF Image Browsing Protocol, Picture Elements (Louis Sharp)

Reminders for Conference Attendees

- The Madison building has only two open entrances, the main entrance on Independence Avenue, and another directly across from the Capitol South Metro station.
- Library security procedures require that all packages, briefcases, etc., be checked BOTH on entering and exiting the buildings.